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World Bank pledges $1bn for India's health infra

The World Bank and India on Friday signed two complementary loans of $500 million each to support and enhance the country's healthcare infrastructure. Through this combined financing of $1 billion (about Rs 8,200 crore), the bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country | **P11**

G20
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Priority to Skill Training to make Youth Skillful
• Under Chief Minister Koushalya Karnataka Yojane, 56,131 candidates have been trained. Out of them, 24,597 candidates have obtained employment.
• Under Amrita Skill Training Programme, 75,000 candidates were targeted for skill training. So far, 67,508 candidates have been trained.
• Under the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETIs), 12,110 youth of BPL families have been provided skill-based training. 2,221 trained beneficiaries have been facilitated to undertake self-employment.
karnataka information
Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Quad sets up jt counter-terror working group

Will analyse new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

FOREIGN ministers of the Quad nations on Friday reaffirmed the grouping's commitment for a free and open Indo-Pacific, saying it supports the rule of law, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful settlement of disputes, which was a loaded message directed at China.

A joint statement issued after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi, Australia's Penny Wong and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met, announced the formation of a Quad working group on counter-terror. It will explore measures to counter new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism. The first meeting of the working group will be held in the US later this year.

The statement condemned all terror attacks, including 26/11 in Mumbai and Pathankot attacks. "We express our concern at attempts to politicise the working of the UNSC Sanctions Regimes and call on all states to maintain the transparent, objective and evidence based working methods of UNSC Sanctions Committees," the joint statement said. It again was a comment on China delaying attempts to proscribe terrorists based in Pakistan by placing resolutions on technical hold.

Unlike the G20 forum, there was no divergence in the Quad on addressing the Ukraine situation, which it referred to as a conflict. It concurred that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible while underscoring the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine.

> Terrorism has become increasingly diffuse, aided by the use of emerging and evolving tech such as unmanned aerial systems and internet
>
> Joint statement

The four ministers later participated in a session at the ongoing Raisina Dialogue here.

"For us the future is so much in the Indo-Pacific. Our engagement throughout the region, both through the Quad and in other ways, is as comprehensive and as deep as any time I can remember," Blinken said.

₹8.12 cr unaccounted cash seized, BJP MLA on the run

CHETAN MG @ Bengaluru

A video grab of Lokayukta police with the cash recovered from the house of BJP MLA K Madal Virupakshappa's son Prashanth Madal in Bengaluru on Friday | PTI

KARNATAKA Lokayukta officials seized Rs 8.12 crore unaccounted cash from the office and residence of BJP MLA K Madal Virupakshappa's son **Prashanth Madal** in Bengaluru. While Prashanth, who was arrested on Thursday, has been remanded in judicial custody, the BJP lawmaker is on the run since Friday morning.

Prashanth was arrested while accepting a bribe of Rs 40 lakh. The seized cash of Rs 8.12 crore is said to be the highest in a single case in the history of Karnataka Lokayukta. The police are now on the hunt for Virupakshappa, who is the prime accused in the case. The MLA earlier resigned from the post of chairman of Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited (KSDL).

The Lokayukta police registered an FIR against Madal, who represents the Channagiri Assembly constituency in Davanagere, and his son after Shreyas Kashyap, who runs Chemixil Corporation, lodged a complaint that the father-son duo was demanding Rs 81 lakh from him and TAS Murthy, who runs MS Delicia Chemicals. It is alleged that the bribe was for awarding a tender for supplying a chemical oil to KSDL, issue purchase orders and seamless release of the bill amount for the chemical supplied.

Prashanth, who is the chief accountant of Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB), and four others, who were arrested on Thursday, were produced before a magistrate who remanded them in judicial custody for 14 days.

"The police officers had seized Rs 2.02 crore unaccounted money from Prashanth's private office on Crescent Road on Thursday night. Simultaneously, his residence was also searched where Rs 6.10 crore unaccounted money was found," Lokayukta Justice BS Patil told reporters.

When asked whether the MLA will be questioned, Justice Patil said, "It is not appropriate to divulge details as the investigations are underway. The police wing will decide on that." Accountant Surendra and three others have also been arrested.

MLA quits govt post, CM assures impartial probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AS the Lokayukta raids have put the government in a tight spot ahead of the Assembly polls, BJP MLA K Madal Virupakshappa resigned from the post of chairman of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL), a state-government-owned company. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai assured people of an impartial probe into the case.

Virupakshanppa resigned after unaccounted cash to the tune of around Rs 8 crore was found from the residence and office of his son Prashanth. **P6**

EXPRESS READ

No hijab, students must write II PUC in uniform

Bengaluru: Students must appear for the 2nd PUC exams from March 9 in the uniform prescribed by their educational institutions, said Education Minister B C Nagesh on Friday. Since hijab is not part of any prescribed uniform, students cannot wear it in the exam hall, he added. **P4, PTI**

India's focus on research, China's on strategy in Arctic

Bengaluru: While India's primary interest in Arctic region is scientific as the changing climate affects its monsoon pattern, China's main interest in the region is strategic, according to Dr Shailesh Nayak, Director, National Institute of Advanced Studies. **P7**

Foxconn to set up unit in B'luru, CM says it will generate 1 lakh jobs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

K'taka CM Basavaraj Bommai receiving Foxconn chairman Young Liu

WORLD'S leading manufacturer of iPhones, Foxconn (Hon Hai Technology Group), which is likely to shift its base away from China, on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka government to set up its manufacturing plant near the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

"The state government will provide all the cooperation and support to Foxconn. It is a pleasure that a company known for its expertise in advanced technologies is investing in the state", said Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

As per the letter of intent signed, the company will set up the manufacturing facility at ITIR Industrial area at Doddaballapur and Devanahalli taluks on 300 acres of land within a period of five years (2023-2027). The facility is expected to generate employment for one lakh people.

Bommai said Bengaluru has about 400 government and private research and development institutes, the highest in the world. Similarly, the state has an excellent semiconductor policy, he elaborated, while suggesting to the company to look into investing in this sector as well. **CONTINUED ON: P7**

Govt snooping on me, claims Rahul in UK. He is hallucinating, says BJP

PREETHA NAIR & RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

FORMER Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who is on a week-long trip to the United Kingdom, on Friday claimed that he — along with several other Opposition leaders — is under surveillance and that democracy is under attack in India.

The remarks, made during a lecture at Cambridge University, drew sharp reactions from the BJP, which accused the Congress leader of maligning the country's image on foreign soil after facing successive electoral setbacks.

Delivering a lecture at the Cambridge Judge Business School on 'Learning to Listen in the 21st century', Rahul said there is constant assault on the media and on the democratic architecture in India.

Rahul also claimed that he has been warned by Intelligence Bureau officers about his phone conversations being recorded. "I myself had Pegasus on my phone... I have been called by Intelligence officers who tell me, 'be careful of what you are saying on the phone because we are recording the stuff'. This is the constant pressure that we feel," he said.

Reacting to Rahul's accusations, Union minister Anurag Thakur wondered what prevented him and other Congress leaders from submitting their phones to a Supreme Court-appointed technical committee that probed the Pegasus snooping issue.

"Pegasus is not in Rahul Gandhi's phone but in his mind," he added. BJP's Tom Vadakkan said Rahul may have made such remarks to hog headlines. "What we can say for his hallucinations. Who is interested in his conversations? If he makes his MoU with China public, we will be interested," he said.

50% REBATE

ON TRAFFIC VIOLATONS EXTENDED

The Transport Department has reintroduced the 50% discount offer on traffic penalties for 15 days, from Saturday to March 18. The discount will be applicable only on those violations reported before February 11 | **P5**

Fresh to home
HOLI FEAST
Trending, This Festive Season
Our Tender, Juicy Meats
Exploding with freshness and a perfect match for your Holi celebrations. Try our meaty combos now, at reduced prices. And get together with your friends and family over some fast-cooking meaty snacks, using our festival special offers!
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Chicken
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Meaty Mutton Seekh Kebabs
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Classic Chicken Salami
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Pujya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal
69th Sankaracharya of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam
5th Varshika Aradhana Jayanthi
4th March 2023
Guru Blessings Always with all the Devotees
Gowri Kamakshi